From: **Roy Seneca/R3/USEPA/US**
Sent: 3/29/2012 11:17:53 AM

To: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA; David Bloomgren/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
CC: Terri-A White/R3/USEPA/US@EPA; Michael Kulik/R3/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Questions and proposed answers from Bloomberg News on Dimock

Betsaida or David:

Reporter Mark Drajem from Bloomberg News emailed us these questions this morning for an article he is working on today. Let us know if you are okay with these responses. Thank you

Have you had your meetings with residents?

Residents from seven of the first 11 homes sampled have requested follow-up meetings with representatives of EPA and ATSDR. We have four meetings scheduled for today and tomorrow, and are working on scheduling the remaining three meetings.

Have you notified the state DEP about the methane levels?

As part of our sampling efforts, when a well is found to have methane levels above 28 ppm, we immediately take action to notify the resident, the state, and the county emergency management agency. This would also trigger a toxicological review and expedite a quality assurance review.

EPA found one out of the 11 homes in the first round of samples that is above the 28ppm level. This well was not connected to the residence at the time of the sample because the resident was receiving alternate water from Cabot. EPA has notified that resident, who indicated they were already aware that their water contained levels of methane. EPA also notified Pennsylvania DEP and the Susquehanna County EMA, and can work with local officials to provide recommendations to affected residents in the event that use of well water is resumed. EPA will continue to follow this process should there be any similar instance.

As there is no MCL for methane, EPA selected a screening level used by the federal Office of Surface Mining(OSM) of 28 parts per million for dissolved methane in drinking water. 28 ppm is the maximum level of methane than can be dissolved in water before the methane leaves solution and enters the air as a gas. Methane is not explosive while in solution and OSM reports that methane in water does not impair the odor, taste or color nor does it affect in anyway the potability of the water. The potential for methane in air to create an explosive environment depends on a number of factors, such as: the concentration, the volume of the space and frequency of air exchanges in the space.Proper room ventilation will ensure that methane levels in indoor air do not present a safety hazard.

Roy Seneca
EPA Region 3 Press Officer
Office of Public Affairs
seneca.roy@epa.gov
(215) 814-5567

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